policy in regard to strategy and action plan for food processing sector and promotion of agri-business;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas which are likely to be benefited by the said policy; and

(d) by when the policy is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (d) Recently Government had asked M/s Rabo India Finance Private Limited to study *inter alia* the constraints faced by Food Processing Sector, prepare a vision for the sector and suggest strategies to overcome the same. As per their report, major constraints being faced by food processing sector are inadequate infrastructural facilities, lack of adequate quality control and testing infrastructure, inefficient supply chain, lack of processable varieties of farm produce, seasonality or raw material, high inventory carrying cost, lack of easy and concessional credit/lending by banks, high taxation, high packaging cost, affordability, cultural preference of fresh food etc. In order to address these constraints, a draft National Policy for Food Processing/Agri-business has been prepared. Meanwhile in order to give boost to growth of FPI sector, Government in the year 2004-05 has allowed under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profits for the next five years in case of new agro-processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables. In order to increase export of processed food, financial assistance is provided to FPI units to adopt ISO, HACCP and GMP certification.

Popularising processed food

1883. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to popularize processed food in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to enlighten the public on the presevatives used in processed food; and

(c) the details of the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (c) Advertisements are issued from time to time in major national and regional newspapers to build awareness among the consumers about the advantages of processed food. Such advertisements also educate people about the processed foods safe and permitted preservatives as indicated on the label.

Payment of charges by CGHS beneficiaries

1884. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Government servants covered under Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) are required to pay hospital charges in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the names of the hospitals in Mumbai which made Government servants pay hospital charges;

(c) the action proposed to be taken against those hospitals; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE: (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. The Government servants i.e. the serving beneficiaries under CGHS are required to pay the charges of private hospitals/diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS for the procedure /test carried out. The same is reimbursed by the respective Departments as per CGHS approved rates provided the treatment is taken with permission. However, in case of emergency, the recognised private hospital shall not refuse admission or demand advance from the beneficiary and shall provide credit facilities to the concerned patient on the production of valid CGHS card.

HIV infection through blood banks

1885. SHRI N.K.PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government introduced any safety measures to check the